



Steven R. Obert
Executive Director
812-779-6775

May 10, 2023

Bruce Summers
Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Administrator Summers:

On behalf of Indiana Dairy Producers, I am writing in support of the comprehensive proposal for modernization of the Federal Milk Marketing Order system submitted to you on May 1, 2023, by the National Milk Producers Federation.

Our vision is to “make Indiana the most desirable state to produce quality milk”. IDP strives to be the “voice and advocate” of Indiana dairy farm families. Our members produce nearly 80% of the milk in Indiana.

The NMPF plan represents an important and essential approach toward the systemwide changes needed to ensure a successful update of the nation’s federal milk order system, which is critical to ensuring a stable, orderly supply of milk across the United States.

NMPF’s petition is the result of nearly two years of meetings and discussions within the dairy industry and represents a consensus of the nation’s dairy farmers and its processing dairy cooperatives. This includes meaningful engagement with producer associations like ours. While its specific provisions will have different impacts on literally every dairy farm in America, this proposal will benefit all producers and represents the best path for the U.S. dairy industry moving forward.

Our organization urges you to move forward with a national federal order hearing that includes all aspects of the NMPF proposal. Because of the extensive length of time that has passed since these provisions were last updated, and the complex interactions between these various provisions of milk-marketing orders, each individual component is essential to the success of the whole. Please help dairy farmers advance this industry by moving forward with the NMPF proposal. A brighter future for our farms, families and rural communities relies upon it.

Sincerely,

Steven R. Obert
Executive Director

cc: Dana Coale & Erin Taylor